United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1723
6 September 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Pakistan; reviews situation in Afghanistan with Head of Special Mission and Special Representative Mousouris.

+ Secretary-General, opening International Conference on Population and Development, says issues to be discussed in Cairo are of utmost importance for life on earth.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1995 NPT Conference to hold third session in Geneva from 12 to 16 September.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded his visit to Egypt and departed for Pakistan. On arrival in Islamabad, he met with the Head of the Special Mission to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, and Special Representative Sotirios Mousouris. Mr. Mousouris reported some progress with de-mining and humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, although shelling was interrupting operations in Kabul. The United Nations was seeking a moratorium in the fighting so that food could be delivered to the city. Ambassador Mestiri reported no political progress, as the Afghan parties had not demonstrated the will to achieve a peace agreement. He was trying to broaden participation in the peace process so as to bring in more moderate elements.

Yesterday in Cairo, the Secretary-General opened the International Conference on Population in Development, having earlier joined Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in greeting Heads of State and Government. He also had meetings with Germany's Minister of the Interior, Bangladesh's Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and India's Minister of State for External Affairs.

On Sunday, the Secretary-General met with President Hedyar Alirza ogly Aliyev of Azerbaijan. They reviewed efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problems of Nagorno-Karabakh and discussed the Secretary-General's plans to visit the country later this year. He also met with United States Vice-President Al Gore, and discussed the Population Conference and social

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development issues, as well as Rwanda, Burundi, Haiti, and United Nations finances.

The Secretary-General was in Paris on Saturday, where he met with Terje Roed Larsen, his Special Coordinator in the occupied territories. Mr. Larsen briefed him on preparations for a donors meeting on international assistance to the territories, which would begin in Paris tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday told the International Conference on Population and Development that the issues before it were of the utmost importance for present and future life on earth. In an opening address, he said the future of human society and the efficacy of the world economic order depended on the results achieved in Cairo.

The Secretary-General noted that the world's population was projected to increase from 5.6 billion to between 7.9 billion and 11.5 billion by the year 2050. Growth would be concentrated in the poorest countries. Some 4.5 billion people lived in the world's least developed regions, and the situation would worsen if nothing were done. "How can we adhere to the demand for social progress envisaged in the Charter when, every day, 377,000 new human beings are born, mostly in the developing regions and, in many cases, in circumstances of intolerable hardship and poverty?" he asked.

The draft programme of action before the Conference was a comprehensive and integrated text, the Secretary-General continued. It presented far-reaching proposals on such serious issues as poverty, development, the environment, the status of women, and public health. If the Conference adopted the programme, it would be a great step forward. "We have before us today a golden opportunity that it is the duty of us all to exploit to the fullest," he concluded.

The Conference yesterday elected President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt as its President. Dr. Fred Sai of Ghana, President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, was elected Chairman of the Main Committee.

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The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will hold its third session in Geneva from 12 to 16 September 1994. During the session, the Committee will continue work on the draft rules of procedure for the Conference, as well as on its agenda and final documents.

The Conference will be held from 17 April to 12 May 1995 -- 25 years after the Treaty entered into force. It will decide whether the Treaty should continue in force indefinitely, or be extended for a fixed period or periods. It will also review the effectiveness of the Treaty and ensure that its purposes and provisions are being realized.

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In considering background documentation for the Conference, the Preparatory Committee will have before it five papers by the Secretariat on the overall implementation of various articles of the Treaty, as well as a paper by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on its activities relevant to the Treaty. The Committee is open to all 165 parties to the Treaty. Representatives of States not parties to the Treaty and representatives of non-governmental organizations will be allowed to attend open meetings as observers.

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